

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00707 160956Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 /087 W
-----004604 161519Z /23

R 160841Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0142
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0707

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR CH UR RH
SUBJ: PRC PROPAGANDA WARNS AGAINST SOVIET INFILTRATION OF
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. CHINA'S NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY HAS PRINTED ITS MOST
EXPLICIT PUBLIC WARNING IN RECENT MONTHS OF THE DANGERS
OF SOVIET INFILTRATION OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.
IN A MARCH 14 COMMENTARY ENTITLED "SOVIET STRATEGIC
GOAL IN AFRICA," NCNA ACCUSES THE SOVIET UNION OF
"POISONING RELATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS
TO FACILITATE ITS SOUTHWARD DRIVE." THE ARTICLE
ALSO CITES A RECENT SOVIET AIRLIFT TO MAPUTO AS PART OF
A LARGE MILITARY EXERCISE INCLUDING SUPPLY FLIGHTS TO
ETHIOPIA AND ADEN AS WELL.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00707 160956Z

2. ALTHOUGH THE COMMENTARY DOES NOT REFER DIRECTLY TO
RHODESIA, ITS IMPLICATION IS CLEAR. OTHER REPORTING
HAS PROVIDED EVIDENCE OF THE PRC'S CONCERN ABOUT GROWING
SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER THE ZIMBABWE POPULAR FRONT. THE
CHINESE CLEARLY FEAR THAT THE STAND-OFF BETWEEN THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS AND THE PARTIES TO THE

SALISBURY SETTLEMENT CREATES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
FOR SOVIET INTERVENTION. THE COMMENTARY'S REFERENCE
TO THE MAPUTO "AIRLIFT" SEEMS DESIGNED TO WARN MOZAMBIQUE
AGAINST PLAYING THE SOVIET GAME.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE FEARS, CHINESE PROPAGANDA HAS
BEEN UNEQUIVOCALLY AGAINST THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.
NUMEROUS NCNA ARTICLES IN RECENT DAYS HAVE REPLAYED
STATEMENTS BY AFRICAN LEADERS DENOUNCING THE AGREEMENT,
WHILE A MARCH 10 COMMENTARY IN PEOPLE'S DAILY DECLARED
THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE
SMITH'S POWER AND WOULD "FOOL NO ONE."
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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